

Prepared Comments by Senator Pat Roberts
Washington, DC
Military Voting
May 13, 2009

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing to examine military voting. As a Marine, I take this issue personally. Of course, it helps that we have over 37,000 military men and women stationed in Kansas.

I find it disappointing that with all the incredible technology we have today, we ask our military to vote the same way they have since World War II.

They can check their email, video conference with their families, and even upload YouTube clips while deployed.

Despite these advances, we ask them to rely on a disparate system of state rules and requirements, and the mail system to track them down if they want to have a say in our elections.

Our servicemen and women deserve more. In fact, I don't think anyone in the room would disagree with the idea that the men and women defending our freedom deserve the right to have their votes counted.

Let's give them the tools to vote, and once they perform this civic duty, let's make sure their votes are counted.

Now, I've signed letters on this topic. I've sponsored legislation. And the media has certainly exposed some of the problems involved.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, it is time we work in a bipartisan fashion to make sure the votes of our service men and women are counted.

Thank you.